INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A large Contingent of British Industrialists visited India in November to participate in the Indo-British Bombay Week organised under the Indo-British Partnership Initiative. During their stay, they had interactions with the representatives of Indian Industry with the aim to promote Trade and Industry between the two countries. It is reported that during the course of their discussions with their counterparts business transactions/negotiations/agreements of approximately 1 (one) billion pounds have been tied up.

BICP study on tyre pricing

74. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to conduct a study by Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) into pricing, costing and tariff structure of tyres; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ordinance appointing the two election commissioners

75. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has partially struck down the ordinance by which two election commissioners were appointed and has upheld the primacy and sole authority of the Chief Election Commission; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to withdraw the ordinance and remove the two election commissioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. The Supreme Court has not yet adjudicated upon the legality or otherwise of the provisions of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1993. It has however, made an ex-parte interim order on 15-11-1993 on certain writ petitions filed before it challenging the validity of the aforesaid Ordinance as also the appointment of two Election Commissioners. A copy of said Order of the Supreme Court is enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) No. Sir.

COPY

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

(For Prel. Hearing)

Writ Petition (Civil) No. (s) 805/93 & W.P. 791/93, 825/93

T. N. Seshan,

Chief Election Commissioner
S. Ramaswamy

Petitioner(s)

Versus

Union of India & Ors.
(With appln. for ex parte stay)

Respondent (s)

Date 15-11-93 This/these petitions(s) was/were called on for hearing today

CORAM

Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. B. Sawant

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yogeshwar Dayal

For the petitioner(s) Mr. G. Ramaswamy, Sr. Adv., Ms. Abha R. Sharma, Adv. in WP No. 805: M/s Mohit Mathur and Sanjay Hegde, Advs.

Mr. Sudhir Ahluwalia, Adv.

in 791/93: Mr. Ram Jethmalani, Sr.Adv.
Ms. Kamini Jaiswal Advs.

in 825/93: Mr. Ranjan Dwivedi, Adv.

For the respondent(s)

UPON hearing Counsel the Court made the following

ORDER

Issue rule in all the petitions.

In W.P. No. 805/93 notice on the application for interim stay as well as on the application for production of the documents. Until further orders, to ensure smooth and effective working of the Commission and also to avoid confusion both in the administration as well as in the electoral process, we direct that the Chief Election Commissioner shall remain in complete overall control of the Commission's work. He may ascertain the views of other Commissioners or such of them as he chooses, on the issues that may come up before the Commission from time to time. However, he will not be bound by their views. It is also made clear that the Chief Election Commissioner alone will be entitled to issue instructions to the Commission's staff as well as to the outside agencies and that no other Commissioner will issue such instructions.

High Court Bench at Rajkot

76. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up and establish bench at Rajkot High Court of Gujarat to cover Saurashtra-Kachh region;

(b) whether any memorandum/representation has so far been received by the Government from the Bar-Association to dispose of piled up High Court cases at local level and curail administrative expenses and avoid public hardship; and

(c) the exact details of total cases registered and transferred from Saurashtra & Kachh region to High Court Ahmedabad during the last one decade and which are still pending for hearing and clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from time to time for establishment of Benches of Gujarat High Court for Saurashtra region. However, no proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, in this regard. No action is taken by the Central Government unless such a proposal has been received.

(c) The seat of High Court for Gujarat is Ahmedabad only as such the question of transfer of cases from Saurashtra and Kuchh to High Court at Ahmedabad does not arise.

77. [*Transferred to 8th December*, 1993]

Lok Adalats in rural areas

78. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start Lok Adalats in rural areas on large scale;

(b) if so, whehter any directive has been prepared by Government for Gujarat in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Aid & Advice Boards both in rural and urban areas. It has always been the efforts of Committee for Implementing legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) to intensify the holding of Lok Adalats and other Legal Aid Programmes in rural areas. This is impressed upon the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards by the Executive Chairman, CILAS as and when he happens to visit these States.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to part (a) above, the Question does not arise.

Details of appointment of judges in the High Court and Supreme Court

79. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: